

# Stewardship for the future

*Edwin Godfrey*

After all the international financial turmoil that has been going on lately, it is nice to be able to say that the finances of All Saints are relatively stable. Through the generosity of parishioners and careful management, we have been able to carry on our activities as a church, and we also pay promptly our contribution to St. Albans diocese, which is essential to help maintain the ordained ministry of the church across the diocese, including our own parish, rather than reducing numbers. In 2010, we managed to make a small surplus of £2,881, although it now looks as if we are likely to have a deficit of a similar size at the end of 2011.

Some people may therefore wonder why we have thought it necessary to launch a stewardship campaign this year. The purpose of this article is to explain the further items of expense which we believe are necessary, and which will therefore need to be covered by increased giving.

First of all, we took the decision as a parish to take on a curate as an addition to the ministry team. This was surely the right thing to do. There is a general lack of places for curates in the church, but the only way to secure the future of the church is to ensure that new recruits to the ministry who are coming forward have the opportunity to be properly trained. Many of you will know Elliot James by now, and will have come to appreciate the contribution which he has already been able to make since he joined us earlier this year. Because of the inevitable cost of taking on a curate, we arranged with the other parishes in the Hertford Team Ministry that Elliot would divide his time during the period of his curacy between the different parishes, who would also share in the cost of employing him. This has considerably reduced the burden on All Saints, but it will still be necessary to find some £4,000 of extra money for this purpose during the year 2012.

Secondly, everyone will know from their own experience at home that the costs of energy are rising steeply, and the church is

no exception to this. At All Saints, we are lucky enough to benefit from the generosity of the late Reginald Cull, and the income from his bequest which is devoted to heating and lighting the church goes some way towards reducing the cost to us of these items. Nevertheless, the cost of heating such a large building is inevitably going to rise, and we need to be prepared for this. Under this heading, we will probably need at least another £3,000 in 2012.

In addition to these major items, we need to consider spending under various headings which will improve our outreach and help us to grow as a church. In particular, we want to have the ability to give to outside charities, rather than raising money just for our own purposes. Hertford Street Pastors is an interdenominational organisation which does excellent work, in particular with young people, in helping to deal with the problems which can be seen on the streets of our own town, and we would like to be able to continue supporting a cause where we can make a real difference (see article on page 9).

As regards the fabric of the church, in the absence of major structural problems appearing, or the launching of any major projects, the costs should be manageable, but we do for example need to improve the quality of our notice boards, which will help to draw more people into the church, and deal with the regular items of maintenance which occur. All these headings together will require around a further £3,000.

Our treasurer, Colin Bird, has therefore estimated our extra needs for 2012 as £10,000 in total, and Jo Loveridge will be launching a campaign to raise this sum at one of our Sunday services. Although requests for money are never popular at times of economic uncertainty, we would like to encourage everyone to think carefully about what they can afford to give, preferably by agreeing to make regular contributions to the church or increasing the amount of their existing

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contributions. Please also bear in mind that if you are a UK taxpayer you can greatly increase the value of your gift at no extra cost by signing a Gift Aid form.

To make or increase your contribution to the church, please contact our stewardship officers Malcolm and Judy Oughton, either by telephone on 01992 587268, or by email at [malcolm.oughton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.oughton@tiscali.co.uk) or [judy.oughton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:judy.oughton@tiscali.co.uk).

## Holy Matrimony



10<sup>th</sup> September *James Francis Walker  
Baxter and Sophie Lysette Isabella Freeston*

## Holy Baptism



14<sup>th</sup> August *Joseph James Emmony Slaven  
Jessica Leigh Haydon  
Charlie John Crafer*

## In Peace



24<sup>th</sup> August *Basil Breeze*  
26<sup>th</sup> August *Neil List*  
31<sup>st</sup> August *Dennis Martin*

## Coming to All Saints Hertford ...



### THE OSILIGI TROUPE OF MAASAI WARRIORS

The Troupe's music is incredible, mesmerising to hear and certainly fascinating to watch. This is an opportunity to experience and enjoy the diverse culture of the Maasai.

**AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT!! NOT TO BE MISSED!!**

Crafts and wares will be available for purchase

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER at 7.00 p.m.**

**Tickets: £10 Adult, £8 OAPs, £6 Children  
Available from;  
HERTFORD TOWN & TOURIST CENTRE  
10 MARKET PLACE HERTFORD**

**Please view our website [www.osiligi.org](http://www.osiligi.org)**

## Situation Vacant - Hall Manager

Viviane Robertson is moving to Oxford. Viviane had taken over the Hall management from Rosemary and Don Graves at the end of last year. She has done a fantastic job ensuring that the Hall is booked very regularly, that it runs smoothly and is kept spotless. We are now looking for someone to take up this post. You may want to talk to Viviane about what it involves. We do have a Hall Committee, a

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cleaner- caretaker who lives just over the road from the Hall and a weekend cleaner. Most of the regular bookings have hall keys and it will be up to the new manager as to whether we continue to take bookings for sensible parties! This post involves quite a bit of work on the phone and by email.

Please could you let the Vicar know if you are interested in this honorary post.



## Street Pastors in Hertford & Ware

Street Pastors is a national ecumenical organisation with over 100 groups working locally to help people on the streets who are distressed and in need of a comforting word and practical assistance. Locally Hertford & Ware Street Pastors (a registered charity) was started 2 years - to do three things for our community - Listen, Care and Help. The pastors are on the streets at the weekend. There follows a diary extract from one:-

"It was a mild evening and there was a pleasant vibe on the streets of Hertford & Ware. We approached a queue standing outside a well known late-closing club and chatted to the punters as we strolled by. At the end of the queue we noticed a young lady sitting on the step of the next door shop and I asked two of the Street Pastors to go and talk to her. She did not look at all well and was leaning forward with her head between her knees.

She was very drunk and not really capable of communicating; her friend sitting next to her was trying to contact someone to arrange a lift home for them to Welwyn Garden City. Across the road there were two policemen keeping an eye on a young man who had passed out on the streets. We tried to help by giving him some water and he then started to vomit. When it was obvious that the young man was falling in and out of consciousness, we agreed that the Police should call an ambulance.

When the ambulance arrived we left the young lady (let's call her H) on the step and patrolled around the town returning about 45 minutes later. H was gone, but we understood from doormen that she was inside the club. They had, despite their better judgment let her in as she needed the toilet. She had then locked herself in a toilet and the doormen were about to break in and bring her outside.

A few minutes later H emerged being carried over the shoulder of a doorman, and was placed on the same step she had been an hour before. This time we gave her some water, and took a far more active interest in her. The friend had not been able to organise them a lift home so they had to take a taxi. H was still incapable of walking. We decided that we needed to get them to the cash machine and taxi rank that was still some distance away. We got her to the ATM but she could not remember her PIN so was unable to draw cash, so we negotiated with a taxi to take them home when another two guys came up and tried to offer their friends a lift home. Eventually we negotiated for the taxi to take the girls home and on this occasion we paid the £25 fare. We took this unusual step as one of the males who was being very difficult, physically tried to come between a Street Pastor and H, who was being supported by the Street Pastor. As we tried to help them into the cab, we asked the police officer to intervene and they lead the gentleman away for a quiet conversation."

Street Pastors costs about £18,000 a year to run. The churches in the team have given some support, as has the Mission Support Fund of the Diocese, but the main funding this year has come from generous individual donations. It is hoped that All Saints can continue to support Street Pastors in 2012.

## Mothers Union

On **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we will be making candles at Dorothy Toyn's house from 8:00 pm.

Please contact me for more details.

*Rosemary Bolton 01992 589535*